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Good Man at President's Side

It is reassuring to know that President Kennedy will have at his right hand, in making plans and decisions regarding the Berlin problem and other East-West points of tension, the knowledge, experience and judgment of Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, newly appointed to the position of the President's military adviser.

The President is commander-in-chief, and maker of foreign policy, and so he is the one who must reconcile and co-ordinate and evaluate all the various recommendations of the chiefs of staffs of the armed services, the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department officials, the Bureau of the Budget and the congressional leaders.

In the field of national and free world defense, he needs the best man available to help him search out the right answers from the mass of "expert" opinion avail-

able to him, in a field where experts frequently differ.

Gen. Taylor has proved himself an effective field commander in one of the most modern aspects of "conventional" warfare — the paratroop operations in World War II. He has served as Army chief of staff, and so is familiar with the top planning and over-all strategic thinking of the Pentagon. He was on the spot as U.S. commander in Berlin during the 1949-51 period. And he had the courage and independence of spirit to retire as chief of staff to underline his concern over the inadequate defense policies — as he saw them — of the Eisenhower administration.

If as has been widely reported, Berlin is the point where World War III will either be launched or averted, the cool head and realistic judgment of a man like Gen. Taylor can be invaluable in helping the President to plot the best course for America and the free world.